

Neighbor to Neighbor

Volume 7, Issue 1
January /February 2013



Resolve to Review your Credit Report

By Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

The time has come to make your New Year's resolution. Perhaps, you're still working on past years' resolutions, or you've carefully crafted a new one for 2013. For others, you have resolved to never, ever make another New Year's resolution, again.

I'll be the first to admit,...change is *not easy*! But here's a quick, simple, and free resolution you can make that will help keep you *up to date* about your credit profile, and alert you to any erroneous, and/or suspicious activity that could be a sign of *identity theft*. Review your credit report.

Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion are the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. Each are required by law (Fair Credit Reporting Act) to provide you with a *free* copy of your credit report, once a year. So, every four-months, you can make a request to one of the credit agencies. It's a savvy way to track your information year-round at no cost.

Go to www.annualcreditreport.com, call 1-877-322-8228, or fill out/mail in the [Annual Credit Report Request Form](#). This is the only authorized entity to provide the free credit reports under the law. **Caution:** There are other entities which claim to offer you a free credit report, but then result in fees after a brief trial period.

You will need to provide your name, address, date of birth, and Social Security number. Online requests may give you immediate access to your report. Requests by phone or mail can take up to 15 days.

As a side note, the report will not give you your credit score.

Knowing what it's in your credit profile is important because it affects your ability to get a loan, get job, or receive other services. Though it's not a full-proof way to prevent identity theft, reviewing your information can go a long way in helping you detect and put a stop to individuals using your *good name*.

Our Mission

Working in partnership with the community to provide public safety services which enhance the safety, security, and quality of life of the community.

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TRAFFIC SAFETY

There's a lot to SEE...

Clear your view, and mind of distractions

By Sgt Diana Foesch, *Traffic Safety Division*

This time of year brings greyer, darker days, more congested traffic, and wet weather—*now that's a happy thought,...not!* The point: there's an increased need to be careful driving and walking.

With the colder weather comes fogged windows and rain, making visibility challenging. Keep the windows defrosted and scrape away frost before you put your vehicle in *drive*. Having just the front windshield clear still impairs your overall visibility. Not being able to see out of all your windows could make the difference between life or death for you or someone else.

Inattentive, and impatient driving can prove just as costly. Stay focused! The rush of the holiday season may have many of us in recovery-mode during the new year, leading our attention to stray as we move from one destination to another. And please, put down your cell phone when you drive. It's a violation to use your cell phone without a *hands-free* device. The violation fine is \$110.00. Having your cell phone on speaker and holding it in your hand is not *hands-free*.

Be aware of your surroundings. Do you see that car wanting out of that driveway? Do you think the driver is going to jet out into traffic? Are the cars farther ahead of you all stopping? If so, something must be making them stop. It may not be a traffic light; it may be something in the road that you will have to quickly navigate around.



Pedestrians, wear conspicuous clothing that stands out to help drivers see you. At night, wear bright, reflective clothing, walk in well-lit areas, and if possible, carry a flashlight. Don't assume drivers see you, especially when crossing the roadway. This time of year brings the highest rate for

vehicle and pedestrian crashes because there's less light, bad weather and people are in a rush to get to their destination. The greatest, and most common pedestrian hazard is crossing in the middle of a roadway, instead taking the time to walk to an intersection.

A crosswalk does not have to be a painted crosswalk for it to be declared a crosswalk. An unmarked crosswalk is any where two roads intersect. The roads can be colored differently or have brick which represents the crosswalk. Do you know where the unmarked crosswalks are in your neighborhood? Find them and discuss them with your kids, so they know their responsibilities, too.

Make it a *Happy New Year*, and not one marked by a traffic tragedy. Increase your vehicle visibility, pay attention, and get noticed, so everyone can arrive at their destination safely.

Super Bowl Sunday not so Super

By Julie Carrasco, *Crime Prevention Specialist*

Well, the holiday season has passed including what many speculate is the biggest evening for driving under the influence,...New Year's Eve. However, an unofficial holiday has traditionally been one of the biggest days for alcohol-related crashes, resulting in injuries and fatalities,...Super Bowl Sunday.

The reality, drunk driving is a daily occurrence on our roadways, posing an immense threat to you and your loved ones.

It's been said time and time again, but worth repeating,... ***Don't drink and drive!***

Be a responsible host - collect keys, call someone a ride, or let them stay the night.

Report suspected drunk drivers to 9-1-1.

Municipal **CODE** *Enforcement*

Watch for Loose Dogs

By Tony Casker, *Police Field Operations Specialist*

Did your fence blow down and your dog happen to get loose? Sometimes this happens during our seasonal high winds and that's understandable. If your dog has a habit of getting loose, whether digging under the fence, or simple neglect, like a leaving a gate door open, you as the pet owner are responsible. Any loose dog may become aggressive or dangerous to strangers or cause a vehicle accident by running into the street. Owners can be fined up to \$250.00 for each occurrence.

If you see a loose dog, please don't approach it. Instead, call Code Enforcement at 503-629-0111 or Animal Control 503-846-7041 during the day. Code staff are available 7-days a week until 1:00 a.m., excluding Holidays. If possible, please stay a safe distance, and stay on the phone with our dispatch to report where the dog is going.

Sometimes we get these calls and are unable to help the dog. This is because the dog is gone from the reported area by the time we arrive, which can be at minimum 10-15 minutes. Please help us get the dog safely caught and returned home. If you're able, stay on the phone until a Code officer arrives.

Horses on the loose?

Hillsboro Police corral two horses on 231st that escaped from a small farm, nearby. Neighbors incurred significant property damage, but there were no injuries.



and Loose Leaves

Have you noticed neatly piled leaves, near the curb when you drive through neighborhoods? The City of Hillsboro Public Works Department provides a once a year, curbside leaf pick-up. For more information on whether your area is still available for pick-up, go to: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/PublicWorks/LeafPickUp/ or call 503-615-6509.

However, any other time of the year, debris such as rock, bark dust, or fill dirt, is not allowed on the street and considered a street blockage violation. Any landscaping product must be stored on your own property. Any water run-off from a landscape product must not be allowed to block or enter any nearby storm drain. Construction material or debris is also not allowed on the street. Please help us reduce flooding and polluting of the City's drainage system by being aware of where you place these materials.

**For more information on other
City of Hillsboro Municipal Codes, call 503-615-6645
or Non-Emergency Dispatch at 503-629-0111.
You may also visit <http://qcode.us/codes/hillsboro/>**



Photo by Michal Thompson, *The Argus*



Don't lose your marbles

By Diane Cadonau, Hillsboro Police Volunteer Mediator



The year 2012 turned out to be a bit trying for me. As was the case with most people, I was not at all happy with the overwhelming display of negativism in our recent election, nor have I considered the obstructionism that has been ongoing in Congress to be a sign of American exceptionalism. On a political level, at the very least, we seem to be losing our marbles.

On a more personal level, I found myself embroiled in a bit of a disagreement with a neighbor over their backyard flood lights being left on late at night. This might not have been an issue except that I have one window, high in my bedroom, that is not meant to have curtains or a shade. The light from their backyard painted a white gash across my ceiling by which I could have read a child's book - albeit one with larger print - without turning on a lamp.

It was not their fault that I was having an old woman's trouble falling asleep. Nor was it their fault that I missed seeing the stars twinkling through the branches of my maple tree or watching the limbs of the maple dance maniacally on a blustery night as I burrowed deeper under my blankets until I fell soundly asleep. But it really came to feel that way to me. Without the least bit of thought going into the matter, I began to feel as if they were deliberately leaving those lights on just to make me miserable.

Of course, they were not. But it truly did feel that way to me, and that feeling caused me to behave pretty badly when the confrontation finally came.

Now, for the moment of disclosure: I have been a community mediator with the Hillsboro Mediation Program for 16 years. I like to think of myself as a bit of an expert on the nature of conflict and how to resolve it. I have, after all, helped disputing neighbors over all of those years find resolution to their conflicts. So I am left thinking I either suffered a "senior moment" or, personally, lost MY marbles. I have no idea which would shed the best light on my behavioral slip, but I am glad I, at the very least, was able to ask the question and ponder an answer.

Now for the denouement: as it turned out, when the dust settled down and the feelings came under control, the neighbors were very willing to accommodate my needs by turning off the lights after 11pm. I am truly grateful for their response because I can see the stars again and watch the maple tree limbs dance in the wind as I drift off to sleep.

I won't beat myself over my head for failing to follow a few simple rules when confronting a neighbor about a problem. What I will do is remember what they are:

- Recognize the difference between your feelings and your needs and how they will define viable resolutions,
- Express your feelings, needs and resolutions in "I" statements, adding, "...are you able to help me here?" as you seek to cooperatively explore options.
- Listen!
- And...**Don't lose your marbles!**

Understanding



FAIR Housing Issues

Following is a portion of an article by Nadeen Green, an attorney who has spoken on fair housing topics to residential rental audiences across the country since the Fair Housing Amendments Act's inception in 1989.

Through state laws and local ordinances, as well as through court cases, the civil rights of the Fair Housing Act continue to expand or are clarified. So here are some things that you may not know about.

Lions and tigers and bears, oh, my!

You know a *service animal* is not a pet, and that you must make reasonable accommodations for people who have a service animal (this usually relates to your pet policies). And while it is highly unlikely that lions, tigers or bears will be the service animals brought to your community, keep in mind that not all service animals are dogs and cats. And those that are dogs may be providing assistance you never even thought of. From cases or in the news, service animals that take us beyond the guide dog for the blind, or the cat for depression, include:

- Dogs assisting their humans who are diabetic (sensing changes in blood sugar levels);
- Dogs providing a calming effect for children who have FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome);
- Miniature horses (as guide animals for the blind); this author has had two students in class that had guide horses at their communities;
- An iguana assisting with depression.

Social Media - You may chuckle when you hear less-than-savvy folks talk about social media, but you may not know as much as you think you do when it comes to social media marketing and fair housing. Social media marketing is a form of advertising and there are fair housing considerations. There are numerous and detailed articles out there about this, but here are a few things for you to consider:

- Watch what you say: the same words that were taboo in print and online are still taboo in social media.
- Watch who says it: diversity of spokespersons should be your goal.
- Watch who you *show*: *white-only advertising has been a sin since 1968.*
- Weigh your control of your social media site: more control can mean more fair housing liability.

Food Stamps - Should food stamps be counted toward income for rent qualification? The answer is "maybe." If your community is located in an area that has a source of income protection (this is the case across Oregon), there is the possibility that food stamps would be considered income. Would this be necessary as a reasonable accommodation if the recipient is getting food stamps based on disability? And finally, the philosophical question of "why not" count them?

Information contained in this article is not to be considered legal advice.

Do you have questions about your rights and responsibilities under fair housing laws? Visit www.FHCO.org or call 1-800-424-3247 Ext. 2.

LANDLORDS

Do you know what goes on at your property when you're not there?

By Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

Properties left to manage themselves often result in an unkempt environment, nuisance calls, and sometimes criminal activity. Knowing what goes on at your rental property is crucial to maintaining good livability standards for your tenants and surrounding neighbors. Whether you live on or off-site, Hillsboro Police can help by providing you monthly calls for service reports. The reports will give you basic information about when and why police responded to your rental property. *For more information, call 503-615-6756.*

Out Reach



Shop with a Cop

Hillsboro Police Officers' Association partners with Fred Meyer and Parr Lumber to help brighten Christmas for 20 local kids and their families.



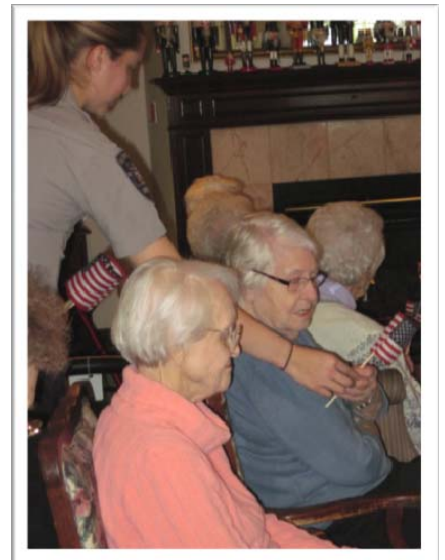
Respect for Law Award

Hillsboro Optimist Club presents their *Respect for Law* award to the Hillsboro Police Department's Cadet Advisors. They're recognized for their dedication to youth in our community, and for mentoring them as they grow and learn to be good citizens.



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Cadet Hannah Heyob visits with residents at Rosewood Park Retirement Community as they recall memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Looking Ahead



Here's your chance to get a first-hand look at law enforcement, and learn why police officers make the decisions they do.

You'll see that it takes more to operating an effective police department than just *enforcement*.

...and that *behind the badge*, there's a person looking to make a difference in the community.

Hillsboro Police Department's

Citizens' Academy

Knowledge
Understanding
Solutions

The Citizens' Academy is a FREE, 12 week class designed as an educational tool to facilitate communication and understanding of the police role in the community while encouraging partnerships between police and citizens.

The classes will explore the budget to recruitment, hiring and training, different types of investigations, use of force, tactical negotiations, officer-involved shootings, traffic safety, gang culture, evidence, crime scene analysis, the K9 program, and more!

In addition, the academy tours the 9-1-1 Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA) and the Washington County Jail.

Classes begin February 7th
Thursday Evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information, call 503-615-6785 or go to:

www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/Police/Community/CitizenAcademy.aspx



Beaverton | Forest Grove | Hillsboro
Tigard | Tualatin | Washington County

Landlord Forums

Better manage your rental property.
Network w/other landlords.
Partner w/local law enforcement.

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
at PCC Willowcreek Campus



JANUARY 9th

Conflict Resolution & Resources

FEBRUARY 13th

Oregon Medical Marijuana

ALSO: Legal questions answered
by Attorney Jeffrey S. Bennett

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

911
Emergencies

Dispatch
Non-Emergency
503-629-0111

Hillsboro Police
Records
503-681-6175

Hillsboro Police
Code Enforcement
503-615-6645

Hillsboro Police
Volunteer Services
503-681-6474

Hillsboro Police
Graffiti Removal
Assistance (hardship)
503-681-5395

Washington County
Animal Services
503-846-7041

Community Enhancement Team

CET is committed to working with its residential and business partners to facilitate community excellence through safety education, crime prevention, resource assistance, and problem-solving.

Forming Partnerships
Building Relationships
Enhancing Livability

Crime Prevention Specialists

Residential Community

Julie Carrasco

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503-615-6756

Brandi Gilbert

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Business Community

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Police Program Specialist

Mediation and

Youth Peer Court

503-615-6797

Police Program Coordinators

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East Precinct

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HPD Website

<http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/police>

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on

Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/hillsboropd

www.twitter.com/HillsboroPolice